MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are no hard and fast rules on the subject. But the nature of the work in a particular locality and the aptitude of the officers for the same are mainly taken into consideration in the matter of posting.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Are the number of offences committed and the number of offences that may be committed to be considered with regard to the posting of these officers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It does not seem to arise from that answer. The answer says that the nature of the work in a particular locality and the aptitude of the officers, these are the considerations which usually enter in the selection of officers for particular localities.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Have not these officers to detect offences?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, in some cases but not in all of them. In some cases the officers are in charge of chowkeys in salt depots.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know from the member whether the detection of offences does not form part of their chief work?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not fully subscribe to that.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Have the offences committed in a particular locality anything to do with regard to the posting of officers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That may not enter into consideration. I personally cannot say.

Registration of Births and Deaths.

95. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In view of the following passage, *viz.*, "under these circumstances, the present statistics are of little value for any inferences based on them being drawn for purposes of public health," that occurs in the Departmental Administration Report of the Sanitary Department for the year 1102, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the definite proposals made by the Sanitary Commissioner for the more effective registration of births and deaths and the nature of the action taken by them in the matter?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the Proceedings of Government R. O. C. No. 848/28/G.A., dated the 23rd May 1928, which contains the proposals of the Sanitary Commissioner and the orders of Government thereon, published in the *Gazette*, dated the 29th May 1928—Part I, pages 682 and 683.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the purport of the G. O. referred to in the answer?

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MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That has already been published in the Gazette.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): That may be. The particular page of the Gazette is not with me now; therefore I am unable to ask supplementary questions.

Sir, with reference to this method of answering questions, we have already entered protests. When we ask interpellations, Government should give honest answers. Instead of that they refer to some Gazette. It is impossible to find out where it is.

May I at least know the purport of the G. O. containing the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): If necessary I shall give the purport of the G. O. in question. The Sanitary Commissioner reported that the preparation of vital statistics in rural areas was not attended to satisfactorily by the Pakuti subordinates and that there were several omissions which could be detected if some attempts were made in that direction. He therefore recommened that the Range Vaccinators of the Sanitary Department may be authorised to find out omissions in their Ranges and they be given some remuneration for this additional work.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Was that recommendation approved by the Government?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner was referred to the Land-Revenue Commissioner for his remarks.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Whatever that may be, Sir, has any action been taken, so that the country may get more reliable figures about vital statistics?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I have already said about the recommendation made by the Sanitary Commissioner. On the report of the Land Revenue Commissioner who obtained the views of the Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, Government passed orders to the effect that the work of detecting omissions in vital statistics in rural areas be attended to by the Pakuti subordinates, that they be given some remuneration for the additional work involved and that this arrangement be in force tentatively for a period of three years.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether it is not the purport of the Sanitary Commissioner's recommendation that since these proverticars are not under his control but are under the control of the Revenue authorities, the work is neglected?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): No. It is not exactly because the subordinates are not under him. It is because they find it difficult to attend to this work. They have enough work to attend to.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Am I to understand that the Government have issued strict orders that the proverticars should more briskly attend to this work?

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MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes, and also that they be given some remuneration for this work.

Opening of new schools in rural areas.

96. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is any uniform principle or policy followed by the Education Department in the matter of granting permission to open new schools of the same type in rural areas, and, if so, what it is ; and

(*b*) what according to the *Education Code* should be the distance between one school and another of the same type ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The member is referred to parts (*a*) and (*b*) of Rule 134 of the *Education Code*.

(*b*) There is no rule restricting the opening of new schools within specified distances. Each case is decided on its merits, with particular reference to the requirements of the locality.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : With reference to the answer to part (*b*) of the question, may I know what may be the considerations that may weigh with the authorities concerned for granting permission to open a new school in a particular locality where there is already a school.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The permission is granted, where there is necessity for two schools to take in the whole student population.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Even in rural areas ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, everywhere.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : My question is confined to the policy of the Government in giving permission to rural areas. I have excluded towns.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : There may not be scope for two schools in a particular place. In that case, permission will be granted to only one school. If there is scope for two schools, permission will be granted for two schools.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is unhealthy competition at the expense of the student population, between private individuals, for opening more schools for their own selfish ends ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government are not aware.

List of irrigation works pending execution.

97. MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of irrigation works for which estimates are ready, but for which the funds have not been allotted till now (14-11-1104) with the dates on which such estimates were finally approved ?

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